

**From:** Jaime Riney  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 9:50am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Renata B. Hesse

I am writing today to express my concerns over the Microsoft Anti-trust settlement. I currently operate two computers on more or less a continual basis. I have two other computers that are older and have been salvaged from parts. On my primary machine, I have Redhat Linux installed which I myself use almost exclusively; on my secondary machine, I have Micro\$oft Windows; the two auxiliary computers are used for testing and developing, and are primarily loaded with Linux operating systems. I want to stress the fact that I am not a Micro\$oft Windows user. I have Windows on one machine out of necessity, for some things are more easily achieved through Windows and it is slightly more user friendly for my wife and guests, however, I am not an advocate of Micro\$oft and I not wish to finance their organization.

Micro\$oft claims that they are not a monopoly, yet they own ninety-five plus percent of the home user market. Micro\$oft claims fair business practices, yet they have been embattled on all sides from corporate interests to end-users. Micro\$oft claims to offer choices, yet works tirelessly to prevent competition even to the point of advocating laws that would make open-source software illegal.

Everything that Micro\$oft claims appears to be in opposition to reality. To date I know of only one company that will give you a choice of operating systems that you can receive with your new computer (desktop computers only). Every other company requires the customer to purchase a version of Micro\$oft Windows on a new computer or laptop. If a customer should require a new computer system, and that user had no intention of using the Windows operating system (as is the case for myself), that user will still be required to purchase a license and pay tribute to Micro\$oft for the right to buy a mainstream commercial system, or else piece meal a system and pay significantly higher for a comparable machine. This current situation alone, in my opinion, is intolerable. Micro\$oft, for years, has bilked the government, corporations, and end-users for an operating system that cannot be definitively proven to be superior in performance and capabilities than a free operating system that has largely been worked in peoples spare time, at least until the adoption of companies like Redhat. The only claim to their success is there abusive and strong-arm tactics that they used in the business world. Namely, exclusive licensing agreements, leveraging huge financial and legal assets against smaller struggling companies, and a sustained, false campaign against a free alternative to their proprietary software that likens advocates of open-source software to criminals. Forgive my digression, but can I sue them for libel? Not likely, their flock of legal dogs would squash me in a heartbeat.

I am in favor of sever punitive damages against Micro\$oft. I would like to see the company broken up into smaller organizations, and fines assessed that are appropriately punishing to a company with enormous cash assets. In my opinion, Micro\$oft is the single largest impediment to progress in this country. Micro\$oft says you can advance technologically, however, you must do it their way or not at all. I think it is time to take that choice away from Micro\$oft and give it back to people and the industry.

I do not feel that the remedies proposed in your settlement go far enough to punish Micro\$oft. In fact I am concerned with the idea of recognizing Micro\$oft as a legal monopoly that is sanctioned and watched over by government. My fear is your solution will give Micro\$oft a favored status that will actually promote the continued expansion into more and different market shares. Micro\$oft is a monopoly, the solution is to punish the company and to disable their ability to continue to monopolize markets.

Sincerely

Jamie S. Riney

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